

HELLO AGAIN!



Good news. If things work right there won't be any streaks or ink spots on this newsletter. I gave my cranky mimeo machine a dirty look and a cleaning. I also found out I was doing a couple of things wrong.

If my trusty contributors contribute in time, I might have 4 special articles by press time. I'll hold off mentioning them until they arrive. As you probably realize I type the bulk of this newsletter around the first of the month. Late mail and ideas are typed the weekend before the 15th of the month and then the newsletter is mailed. This is still a one-man operation and in order to keep postage down, I limit myself to news and info crammed into 3-4 sheets so I can send this first class for 6¢. This issue may be larger.

I am not fancy with pictures, designs, etc. but I hope I serve a purpose. I now have 80 subscribers and still have enough money for several more issues.

CORRECT TITLES: I dwelled into this problem last issue, Bob Joseph discussed this in his Feb. issue of Stay Tuned, and I am going to mention it again. PLEASE be careful about listing your programs. There is no point in listing a program unless you have listened to enough of the program to get the correct information. List the correct title. If the correct title of a Suspense program is Door of Gold don't list it as Golden Door. Bruce Ruggles suggests that when listing series use the titles in Radio's Golden Age. At least use the series title given by the announcer when introducing the program. It's confusing to find "Sergeant Preston" listed instead of "Challenge of the Yukon" which was the proper name of the show. SOOO use the correct title mentioned by the announcer, check date with day of program if known (this could eliminate a lot of wrong dates), list guest stars, sponsor, network, whether opening or closing are missing, quality. Remember if no title is given mention the action and names given in about the first five minutes of the program.

CONFUSING PROGRAMS: These are the same:

1. Challenge of the Yukon: Demerest family; Big Strike mine; Inheritance. As far as I know this is the only 30-minute program around. There are a few 15-minute programs from an LP.
2. Jack Benny: 3/16/47; New Quartette; B Crosby, A Russell, D Haymes; Academy Awards
3. Jack Benny: 4/4/48; R Coleman's oscar lost; Ink Spots.
4. Inner Sanctum: Professor's Elixir #4; Perpetual Youth; Fountain of Youth; R Widmark (Hermit's Cave has a program called Professor's Elixir and it is different.)

Let me know of duplications you have made because of title problems.

PERIODICALS: Winter issue of Radio Dial arrived. Excellent reading as usual. Feb; issue of Stay Tuned came (1250 La Baron Circle, Webster, NY 14580). This new monthly newsletter is put out by Bob Joseph and John Monroe with help from their wives. Their last issue was about 20 pages.

QUIZ: There has been literally no response to the last 2 quizzes because of hardness or lack of interest. I am going to discontinue them. If you still want them send in answers to Jan and Feb quiz. I send a reel of programs to the winner of each quiz. Previous winners have been Ernie Hack, Bruce Ruggles, and David Swift.

USED TAPES: Some traders send used tapes. Please use new tapes unless an agreement has been reach with the person you are trading with. Almost all traders use polyester-based tapes. Over 90% of the tapes that I have received are Concert or Shamrock.

DAK TAPE: I received a contribution from Drew Alan Kaplan, President of DAK Enterprises. Among other things they ... recondition Scotch and Ampex tape and sell it at very low prices. I have found this tape to be very satisfactory. I understand others of you are starting to use it. Let me know how you feel about it. (Dak Enterprises, Box 69920, West Hollywood, Cal 90069).

RELISTINGS: I have relisted my Jack Benny programs. I also have special lists of my Amas programs as well as many of the programs I dubbed directly from disc. Also relisted are my Escape and Inner Sanctum. I would like to find people with more of certain programs than I have. My trading has slowed to a crawl because there are only certain programs I am looking for. Programs that I am interested in with the number of them that I have follow:

ARCH OBOLER (not Devil and Mr. O)*13

BANDS: (different band leaders)-98

BLONDIE-6

COLUMBIA PRESENTS CORWIN-3

CBS RADIO WORKSHOP-18

DENNIS DAY-5

ESCAPE-47

EXPLORING TOMORROW (complete only)-3

GUNSMOKE-76

2000 PLUS-7

WHATEVER BECAME OF (radio personalities)-44

HERMITS CAVE:-9

INNER SANCTUM-27

JACK BENNY-94

JUDY CANOVA-3

LIGHTS OUT (original)-2

LETS PRETEND (complete)-7

MYSTERIOUS TRAVELER-24

MR. KEEN-3

SUSPENSE-308

SUSPENSE: Copies of over 200 programs with correct dates are still available; MORE INFO: Like Man Somebody Dig Me; D Day; 8/9/59: Loves Lovely Counterfeit; also 1/17/48: Lodger; also 2/14/48: Woman in Red; 4/6/44: Flood on Goodwins; 7/14/57: Red Cloud Mesa; 8/2/59: House by the River; 2/28/48: Headshrinker; 8/23/59

HERE AND THERE: New Friends: Larry Kiner, 7554 132nd Ave NE, Kirkland, Wash 98033. Larry has been collecting for about 3 years and has over 8000 programs....Bob Joseph mentioned to Mel Shlank of a Canadian collector with between 12,000 and 15,000 programs. I'll pass on his name when I get it....Cecil West, Box 10787, Orlando Fla, 32810. ...Tom Alexander, 1870 NW 42 Terrace, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla 33313. Tom is very interested in trading. Tom has a good listing of about 300 programs....Bill Natowich, 145 Burton Rd, Beacon Falls, Conn 06403. Bill is a new Connecticut collector who is just starting....Lyn Taylor, 425 S. Hastings Ave, Fullerton, Cal 92633. Lyn is Dean of Instruction at a community college in Cal. The history department is planning a project that would concentrate efforts on old time radio personalities, the technical crew, and the sponsors. Lyn is very interested in interviews of old timers telling about the early days of radio.

Old Friends: Got a phone call from Raleigh Barker from Kansas (having a WATTA line really helps). Raleigh just purchased an Aiwa (Japanese) tape recorder. It is very compact, 2-track, and sells for under \$100. He uses it in the car....Ed Carceran's radio programs on WTIC are going very well. For those who haven't heard, each month Ed and Dick Bertel interview a different radio personality (50-60 min). Last month he interviewed Goodman Ace and in Feb. they interviewed Rosa Rio, radio organist. I have all of the interviews on tape. Don Koehnemann gets them almost as fast as I do....Don Brush is doing an in-depth study of The Aldrich Family. He has talked to Ezra Stone and will be talking to Jackie Kelk shortly. Don would appreciate any detailed information about the program and personalities. (D B, 19 Greenhouse Blvd, West Hartford, Conn 06110....Roy Bright puts together radio programs

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for a local radio station, WIVC-FM in Peoria, Ill. They checked with their lawyers and were told that as long as the station uses a good variety of shows there would be no legal problems....Joe Hehn has put together one of the best looking catalogs around. It is extremely detailed and very well printed(J H, 422 N 9th St, Allentown, Penn 18102. ...Eric Klarer, the very successful 8th-grade entrepreneur, is now putting out a quarterly entitled "Reminiscing Time" It will deal with the golden days of radio, the golden age of motion pictures, and the swing era-its music, big bands, etc. Also featured will be comic books, radio premiums, and the great movie palaces. It will have something for everybody. Subscription will be \$5.00 a year for 4 issues, each not less than 15 pages. Will tell you more about when I receive my first copy....Chris Lembesis Jr. will soon be doing an in-depth interview of Jack Benny....Fred McFadden has, I believe, the largest collection of material related to Judy Garland. In any case he has a huge amount of radio material with Judy and is always looking for more (F M, RD4, Westerville Rd, Rome, NY 13440....Jack Miller is still going strong with his RSVP radio program. Another one is coming up in late March....Join Nostalgia Book Club, 525 Main St, New Rochelle, N^y 10801....Bruce Ruggles (and I) would like to see all collectors be very careful about listing dates. If you know the day of the program check the date with a perpetual calendar (available in the World Almanac). It's discouraging to receive a show that signs off "see you next Wednesday" only to find it listed as a Sunday program. If you know what day certain programs were on (many changed as they went along) please let me know. To give you an idea how the days change, here is Suspense: 6/17/42-9/30/42 (Wed); 10/27/42-8/10/43 (Tues); 8/21/43-11/23/43 (various days); 12/2/43-11/?/47 (Thurs); 11/28/47-12/26/47 (Fri); Early 1948 saw hour programs on Sat; Unsure until 8/4/49-11/16/50 (Thurs); Unsure until 8/27/51-5/24/54 (Mon); sometime after that on Tues until late 1956 or early 1957; 1957-9/30/62 (Sun)....Chris Lembesis is looking for the sources of all radio programs in circulation now. If you dubbed your programs from discs or know who started some programs going around would you let him know? Chris is especially looking for the source of all Jack Benny programs (C L, 6108 East Monaco, Long Beach, Cal 90808....David Swift just bought 10 new 1800-foot Concert which were all short. I'm beginning to hear complaints bout Concert, especially 1800. How do you find it? Dave recently got a letter from Joseph Curtin (Mr. and Mrs. North) who enjoyed some memories Dave gave him. Alice Frost was his favorite leading lady.(D S, 38 Dartmouth St, Halifax, Mass 02338)....Apologies to Mel Shlank. He is the source of Broadcasting magazine which I BORROW....Miller Hahn has had no trouble with PVC tape but then Miller cleans his heads after every tape runthrough. He reminds all of you to consistently clean your heads (tape, that is). ...Stuart Weiss is interested in Lone Ranger, Shadow, Cisco Kid, Amos and Andy, Challenge of the Yukon, Abbott and Costello, Jack Benny, Gunsmoke (S W, 430 Ocean Pkwy, Brooklyn, NY 11218

JACK BENNY: There was a nice write-up about Jack in the National Enquirer (3/7/71). HIGHLIGHTS: Has raised almost \$5 million in charity concerts. Most of the money has been used to assist symphony orchestras. His first concert was in Carnegie Hall in 1956. Since 1958 his concerts have been raising money for orchestras. Love in Bloom was used once on a radio program in the 30's. Later, needing a song in a hurry they again played Love in Bloom. It cropped up here and there and gradually people associated him with the song. Jack never really liked the song but eventually he was stuck with it as his theme. Jack was 77 on Feb. 14th. He is still extremely active, never looking at the past but at the future. His advice for young entertainers: "Work hard, be lucky - and save your money."

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The following will, hopefully, be a monthly feature of tidbits contributed by Carl Erickson.

AIRCHECKS
by Carl T. Erickson

----In many catalogs of collectors the first broadcast by the Mercury Theater is frequently listed as "Dracula." In fact their opening program was presented on Monday, July 11, 1936 with the dramatization of "Treasure Island." There is an excellent story of Orson Welles in The New Yorker, Feb. 20 and 27, 1971.

----During the week of March 6, 1936, almost 35% of available air time was sponsored. During that period 52% of the programs offered were musicals--shows, records, or songs. News broadcasts made up 8.5% of the broadcasts and drama and variety programs filled 18% of the time.

----After its debut in 1936 the show, Gangbusters, had made an impressive notch in the annals of crime fighting within 2 years. The regular announcement and description of wanted criminals following the show had resulted in the apprehension of over 100 miscreants. Foster May of WOW in Omaha trapped one of these fugitives himself, but before turning him over to the law, he returned to the station, gathered up the shortwave equipment and interviewed his prisoner. The use of shortwave transmission for interviews, remote locations broadcasts, sports events, was quite common at that time.

----In March of 1935, James Arthur Miller, a radio engineer, developed a method of recording sound on a film tape. The method had been by the non-commercial BBC from 1935 to 1939, and by an advertising agency in London for broadcasting shows over Radio Luxembourg and Radio Normandie--two commercial outlets on the continent, with English programs beamed toward the British Isles. The first show broadcast on this tape in the U.S. was the GOOD WILL HOUR, sponsored by Ironized Yeast. The 1/2 hour program was recorded on 2000 feet of film tape. Eventually in 1939 it was hoped that the system using a ray of light would be available to the domestic market at a 1939 cost of \$2.00 per tape and from \$150 to \$3000 for a player.

QUIZ: Just received 6 correct answers for Feb. quiz. Because of this I am continuing the quiz. Answers to Jan. quiz. follow. Then follows this month's quiz. Each quiz lasts for 2 months so keep sending answers in to Feb quiz. Winner gets a reel of programs. From now on at least half of the answers can be found in radio's Golden Age.

ANSWERS JAN QUIZ: 1. "Yours is my Heart Alone; Willoughby's Store in Weaverville; Mildred: 2. Wing to Wing. 3. Orchids to You. 4. Judy Canova: 5. Amanda of Honeymoon Hill: 6. Chaplain Jim: 7. Centerville; W: 8. Escape: 9. Here's Babe Ruth: 10. 46 River Rd, Spring City.

MARCH QUIZ

1. What was the name of Mr. Aldrich's secretary; What was Sam Aldrich's job; What was the name of the Aldrich's dog?
2. What is the name of the hotel in Gunsake?
3. How old is Rollo on DADDY AND ROLLO?
4. What is the name of the dog in the Ozzie Nelson program?
5. What cigarette did you smoke "for a treat instead of a treatment?"
6. Scheherazade was the theme of what program?
7. What soap opera took place in the town of Three Rivers?
8. What serial drama had for its star Richard Widmark, Carleton Young, and Staats Cotsworth at different times?
9. The nickname of what program was Elsie Beebe?
10. What 2 themes were associated with MY FRIEND IRMA?

AN APPEAL TO ALL RADIO COLLECTORS

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LOST AND FOUND ---Found. A lady in Chicago who, with her father, performed on many radio programs in the '30's and '40's. They used to have some recordings of their radio appearances tucked away in the basement, but---LOST. Another opportunity to listen to the Golden Days of Radio, to add to the lists of recordings to be shared.

Fellow Collectors: How can you and I best locate the people who have personal recordings still in those basements, or attics, or garages? How can you and I get these recordings before the Land Fill does?

First, can we brainstorm it? What are your ideas for getting the message out to the public that we are interested in preserving radio material? Letters, phone calls, ads, publicity? To whom, where, how?

Second, are you willing, ready, and able to do something to aid in the search for such recordings? I believe that many recordings exist; that they exist in places other than just in the big cities; that they exist where old radio personalities or their families live.

Further, I believe that most people who have personal copies of recordings would be flattered and pleased with the knowledge that we care about preserving and proliferating these recordings, and that these people would be happy and willing to share them with us.

I have several "pet wants" and I am trying to dig them up. I think a concerted effort on the part of many collectors will bear fruit.

If you are interested in joining in the search, share your ideas with all of us. If you send me your ideas, I will collate them and send you a copy of ideas received. Just send a self-addressed stamped envelope with your idea. If someone else has facilities or time to carry through on this more easily, faster, or better than I, I will happily aid him in this task.

Don Koehnemann
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LAST MINUTE MAIL AND TIDBITS: Larry Kiner has written some very nice music. I played 6 of the numbers on the piano and sent him the tape. If anyone wants the recording send a very small reel of tape and I will dub it for you....Carroll Weiss, 122 East 76th St, New York, NY 10021. Carroll is just starting to trade and is very interested in THE BIG SHOW. He also has a lot of experience with tape-slide synchronization for semi-automated slide projector shows....Harry Sova completed his first class teaching radio production and turned out 41 students interested in the medium of radio. His 120-page project on 1927 radio and television will be mimeographed shortly. He and another radio-television instructor have just begun the operational phase of a computerized broadcasting bibliography. They hope to have some 12,000 articles by December. The system is designed to hold 1,000,000 articles, all cross-referenced and printed out by author, title, date, etc....Don Pellow has reactivated his NO STATIC-PLEASE under the title ECHOES OF THE PAST. Just received the first issue and it is excellently put together. This first issue is short but contains some nice illustrations and a good article by Bill Hennessey on TARZEN (D P, 705 East Chandler St, Evansville, Ind. 47713)....CONFUSION: Date of BIG SHOW often listed as 11/25/50 should be 11/26/50. THE BIG SHOW was on Sunday. After running off my stencils although there are no ink spots I can't seem to avoid fades in places. Please bear with me....The NBC chimes end on the note C. This is a good way to tell whether a program is too fast or slow. Buy a C tuning fork. This is handy if you aren't near a piano or don't have perfect pitch.... Please write to Don Koehnemann if you know anyone in the Orlando, Florida area who can tape 16" transcription discs....

Radio programs for children began and developed in a haphazard fashion. Many of the youngster's programs in the early days were of the sustaining variety; that is, without commercial sponsorship. One of the first programs for the very young in our country was "Uncle Doc". Other countries followed suit with their Uncle and Aunt programs. As this was an untried area, there was no set pattern for networks to follow. There were complaints against the Uncle programs, as well as compliments. The complaints came mainly from parents whose children did not have their names announced over the air. The compliments came from the other corner of the ring.

During the time of the Uncle programs, the networks tried to encourage the growth of more programs. This effort was carried on through the cooperation of school teachers, parents and those in the radio field. The CBS network agreed to turn its facilities over to the parents and teachers to do one program. This program proved to be a drastic mistake, resulting in total failure.

As children's programs were for the most part of a sustaining variety, they did not increase in number rapidly. The outstanding reason for this being that they were scheduled at irregular hours, and many stations were primarily interested in making an income. Therefore they would choose a commercial program over a sustaining one. In the beginning, programs were short, few lasting over thirty minutes. The majority of these programs were heard on weekday afternoons.

Child Study magazine in April of 1933 was the first publication to conduct a study of children's listening habits. The pole was small, with 286 children. It should be pointed out at the beginning that children's programs were new, and few programs were primarily directed towards them. The majority were adult programs. The results of this study showed that musical variety programs were extremely popular. The average listening time per week, per student was eleven and a half hours, with the strongest concentration between 5:15 and 8:15. Children, even at this time, were primarily interested in the production standards. The better the production, the higher the rating.

Parental influence was great one reason being that many families only had one radio. Parents in general were concerned about how many hours their children should be allowed to listen to the radio. They were also concerned over serial programming. They disapproved strongly of terror programs that ended abruptly on a climactic note. Some children actually awoke at night screaming.

As a direct result of this, children stayed away from this type of program and forced the writers to change their style. Jack Armstrong, Superman, the Green Hornet became popular and they were sponsored programs. By this time, the sponsors realized that there was definitely a market for their products through children. This shift caused an upsurge of talent programs designed for youngsters with young amateurs showing their ability. This was poor entertainment, with parents forcing children to perform, and producing social conflicts.

I should like to propose an idea that I have been toying with for several years now and believe that this is the time and the year for it. In order for the success of this project, it would have to be a joint venture with all interested persons throughout the U.S. and Canada. As a cartoonist I have been attending the comic book conventions in New York City since 1965 and it was then that I reasoned, why not a convention for golden radio buffs? I propose "The First Annual Eastern Convention of Golden Radio Buffs" to be held in New Haven, Conn. sometime during the month of July, consisting of a Friday-Sunday weekend and held at one of the hotels or motor inns in the area. Rooms could be set up with antique radios for exhibition purposes, or for sale, depending on the owner. Collectors may bring recorders with them for copying. Also blank tape would be on sale on the premises. The general public would also be invited, as well as press and TV coverage. If we begin now, we will arrange for golden radio personalities to be on hand as guests and to later address us with some interesting talk on the good old days of radio. The first night would also be ideal for a cocktail hour where we may all meet and get acquainted with one another. The hotel would also be ideal for out-of-towners. Let me know what you think of my brain-child and if it deserves a good healthy effort. Remember, only you can make it a success.

Sal Trapani
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ZOUNDS WHAT SOUNDS.

Picture a man, in your mind's eye, on the 23rd story of a New York City building. He is barracaded in a room and voices are pleading with him to come out. He does not speak ~~the~~ ^{and} that was the horror of it. The best horror is never stated. Like humor, the moment you inform people you are about to tell a joke, it is no longer funny. Anyway, here is the Story:

You hear a person that sounds like a man of the cloth, trying to convince him to come out, and whoever was in the room was desperate. You hear a man you assume to be a police sergeant ordering, "Bring his wife in." You hear her come in and she begins to plead with him to come out. You can feel the hysteria growing. All of a sudden you are mysteriously transported and you are inside the room with the man. This is one of the wonderful things that can be accomplished with sound effects. You hear the window going up and very faintly in the distance you hear what sounds like street traffic noises and it stays there for a second or so. You hear the wind blowing from 23 stories up. Suddenly you hear something that sounds like a scrape on the window sill. A few faint cries are heard way down on the ground and then a whooshing, whistling sound, like wind, and the microphone following him all the way down. Then the sound of voooommp. Something has hit the pavement with a god-awful sound. What a sound it made. That was the end of the show. People all over the country were flipping because it was so unbelievably realistic.

It was never stated what he did. The man's voice was never heard but you knew it was a man and you didn't know why he did it. This was a show for one of the early LIGHTS OUT series.

Do you know how the sounds were created? On cue, for the street traffic, a microphone was hung out the window in Rockefeller Center on the 83rd story. This was what made it so frightening, because it

all sounded so real. At the moment this was to happen (and the timing had to be perfect) at the studio, they had a high ladder that went the entire height of the ceiling of about 25 or 30 feet. At the base of the ladder was placed two blocks of concrete pavement. Next to the pavement was placed a microphone aimed at the point where the body was supposed to fall. On cue, at the top of the ladder, a 28-pound watermelon was dropped. It was a sound. You could just hear this thing split open. Somehow it just went balooommp-not just bump or thud. It split. It was fantastic; it was terrifying. It was like standing at ground level 6 feet away when this guy lands next to you. This was a classic.

Then there was another one about a guy planning a surprise party for his wife...but I'd better tell that one next month

Your friendly storyteller
Sal Trapani

MORE LATE TIDBITS: Hope you appreciated the material by Sal Trapani, Evan MacBride, Don Koehnemann, and Carl Erickson. The bulk of this month's Hello Again will be a very detailed article about tape written by Polly and Esther (oh boy) otherwise known as Mel Shlank....Just received the first issue of Eric Klarer's newsletter; a very good job, especially since he is 13. He appears to be a one-man (boy) operation... Fred Province was awarded a Silver Beaver, the highest honor in scouting. Fred, besides having a large collection of radio programs, is one of our more versatile members, being active in many fields, especially scouting....Date of JOAN DAVIS TIME with B Thomas is not 12/20/44. Correct date should be a Saturday. Who knows what it is?....SAME PROGRAM: LASSIE: 1/18/48; One-eyed cat; also Jumpy saves baby's life....When you are dubbing a 30-min program from two 15-min discs, PLEASE DON'T LEAVE EMPTY SPACES: Usually the program breaks during an applause. In any case don't start the tape recorder BEFORE the turntable. You will just be dubbing silence....Evan MacBride has just written an extensive catalog of his collection of 78's. It is in alphabetical order by performer.(E M, 3521 Arden Creek Rd, Sacramento, Cal 95825....If anyone wants Carlton E Morse's phone number (he likes to receive calls from people interested in his programs) write Roy Bright, 2929 St. Philomena Ct, Peoria, Ill 61604....Bill Hennessey is interested in One Mans's Family- any books prior to Book 77 or following Book 80 (B H, 406 Rollingwood Lane, St Louis, Mo 63122)....Ray Oden, 222 Winchester St, Brookline, Mass 02146. Ray is particularly interested in Suspense....Bill Duck, 13 Plymouth Rd, Cherry Hill, NJ 08034. Bill is especially interested in Fred Allen. He also collects books about radio, magazines, pictures of radio stars. Bill is 34 and is a computer programmer for RCA. His list of over 1000 programs is the first I've seen done by a computer... NEW PROGRAMS: Recent additions to the trading circuit: 1943 Jack Bennys sponsored by Grape Nuts; a 1934 Kraft Music Hall with Paul Whiteman.... MORE SUSPENSE: Passage to Benaris; also 10/23/46; Til Death do us Part; also 11/5/61; Life and Death of Joaquin Maurietta; 2/16/53....Next month will be the beginning of an article about hints to traders by Bruce Ruggles....Got a call from Dave Riseman, Box 198, Randolph, Mass 02338. Dave recently started collecting and is interested in programs, premiums, comics....So--let me know what you want, new programs and information of interest, new Suspense dates, new supplements, etc. etc. Until next time...

Write if you get work
Hang by your thumbs

Jay H. Hickerson

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